

course. This state of development continued until the following day, with the ships at varying distances. Thus inclosed on all sides, the Russians were helpless, and powerless to escape the circle. Previous instructions had been given the destroyers and torpedo boats to attack the Russian ships. Following instructions, the fifth destroyer flotilla advanced against a Russian ship, upon which the second division had been concentrating its fire, signalling, "We are going to give the last thrust at them."

#### THE DESTROYERS IN ACTION.

The Russian ship continued to fight, and, seeing the approaching torpedo boats, directed its fire on them. Undaunted, our destroyers pressed forward, the Chinese meantime continuing its attack. The torpedo flotilla arrived within 200 metres of the Russian ship and the Shikura fired the first shot. Two other torpedo boats fired one each. The Shikura received two shells, but the other boats were not damaged. The Russian ship was completely sunk.

Sundown saw the battle raging furiously. Our shells were evidently telling on the Russians, who showed signs of confusion. Our fifth torpedo flotilla, after destroying the Borodino, followed in the wake of our second division, the signal reading: "Something like that." The flotilla followed and located the object, which proved to be a sinking ship with its overboarded crew. Thirty survivors were picked up, turned bottom showing. Thirty survivors were picked up, turned bottom showing. Thirty survivors were picked up, turned bottom showing.

#### THE NIGHT ATTACK.

According to orders previously given for a torpedo attack under dark, all the destroyer flotilla, dividing into two squadrons, proceeded to attack the Russians during the night. The Russians, who were in the Borodino, were attacked with searchlights. A third attempt was made and the Yaguri sank a ship of the Borodino type and also hit others. During the night the Russians continued to move and we preserved our enveloping movement some distance from the Russian position. The Russian ships headed northeast after daybreak, hoping to reach Vladivostok. Our officers were determined that the ship should escape and resolved not to relax their efforts until they had succeeded in either sinking or capturing every Russian ship.

Our ships always kept ahead of the Russians. The battle was resumed at 9 o'clock Sunday morning, twelve miles east of Chiyuppon Bay, and lasted all day. Here the Russians suffered their heaviest losses. They seemed unprepared for their night attacks. During our first night attack the Russians showed nine searchlights and frustrated the attacks, but clearly gave us the location of the fleet, which brought success later.

#### ANOTHER DESCRIPTION.

#### "The Man Behind the Gun" Tells Story of Great Battle.

Tokio, May 31 (Delayed in transmission).—A number of wounded Japanese sailors have arrived at the hospital at Malsbury Navy Yard. They describe the battle between the Japanese and Russian fleets as follows:

At dawn on Saturday our squadron left its rendezvous and advanced through the Tushima Channel. At 2:08 o'clock in the afternoon we sighted the Russian fleet. The Russian fleet was composed of the Kiaz Souvaroff leading the line, with the Borodino, the Alexander III, the Orel, the Oslabya and the Navarin following in the order named. The Nicolai I brought up the rear. Parallel to this line we observed five cruisers. After them came the special ships and destroyers. We counted thirty-two Russian ships in all.

Our fleet, with the battleship Mikasa leading, proceeded toward the Russians in vertical line formation. The Souvaroff opened fire first and then suddenly turned, reversing her course. Almost simultaneously the Mikasa opened fire with her big guns, and thus the curtain rose on the great sea battle. The hostile fleets gradually closed in toward each other, exchanging a vigorous fire. The Russian cruiser Asama approached within three thousand metres of the Russian fleet and carefully observed its action. After a short but fierce fight the Admiral Oushakoff's deck was observed to be ablaze and the ship left the line. By 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon the Russian line was disordered and its fire slackened. The Borodino and the Kamchatka had been disabled, and soon sank. The Borodino continued to fire bravely until the ship was submerged.

#### FLEET MAINTAINS POSITION.

The Japanese fleet continued to maintain enveloping positions from sundown until dawn. Sunday morning opened misty, but the weather cleared, and the search for the remnants of the Russian fleet was begun. Five Russian ships were discovered in the vicinity of Liancourt Island, and they were immediately surrounded. One, supposed to be the Izumrud, escaped at full speed. The remaining four offered no resistance, and hoisted the Japanese flag over the Russian colors, apparently offering to surrender. Captain Yashiro, commanding the Asama, started in a small boat to ascertain the real intentions of the Russians, when Admiral Negoboff lowered a boat and came on board the Asama, where he formally surrendered. The prisoners were distributed among the Japanese ships, and prize crews were selected to take possession of the captured vessels.

About this time we received a message saying that our portion of our squadron was hotly engaging the remaining Russian ships. The Asama hastened to the scene of combat and found the Russian cruiser Dmitri Donskoi vigorously resisting the attack. The Asama attempted to escape and we pursued until after sundown, resuming torpedo attacks at nightfall. On Monday morning the search was resumed by a portion of the Japanese squadron, and it was learned that the Donskoi had been beached on Ulou Island. We were ordered to bring the Orel to Malsbury. On the way the captain of the Orel died of wounds received during the battle. While we were proceeding we were advised of the capture of Rojstevsky, and our men were greatly cheered by the news.

#### ADMIRAL TOGO'S OFFICIAL REPORT.

The Navy Department gives out the following report from Admiral Togo:

Later reports from the different divisions of the fleet engaged in the naval battle of May 27 show as follows: The Russian battleship Oslabya was heavily damaged in the early part of the night Saturday, going down at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The first Russian vessel sunk was the battleship Sissoi Veliky.

The armored cruisers Admiral Nakhimoff and Vladimir Monomach, after being in the general engagement during the daytime, were still further damaged by torpedoes during attacks by night and were eventually completely disabled. They drifted into the vicinity of Tsu Islands, where they were discovered on Sunday morning (May 28) by the auxiliary cruisers Shilano, Yawata, Tainan and Sado, which were about to capture them but they sank.

The crews of our auxiliary cruisers rescued 915 of the crew of the sunken Russian ships. The battleship Navarin was torpedoed four times after sundown on Saturday (May 27) and sank. The survivors of the Navarin's crew confirm the story of her destruction.

The cruisers Nittaka and Otawa discovered the Russian cruiser Svetlana at 9 o'clock on

Sunday morning in the vicinity of Chappyan Bay, and immediately attacked and sunk her. The commander of the Nittaka reports the fact. It is suspected that the Russian cruisers Almaz and Aurora were sunk by torpedoes on the night of May 27.

The former report includes the statement that the Russian cruiser Jemchug was sunk; as yet this remains unconfirmed, and the cruiser's name has been excluded from the revised list of Russian ships destroyed. Judging from this and former reports, with eight battleships destroyed or captured, three armored cruisers and three coast defense ships destroyed or captured, and the second class cruisers and other vessels destroyed, the enemy's fighting power is annihilated.

#### THE JAPANESE LOSSES.

Later reports show that during the night of May 27 our torpedo boats numbered 34, 35 and 60 were sunk by the enemy's fire. Besides the above three there was no damage worth reporting. No warship or destroyer suffered any loss of fighting or navigating power.

We anticipated a heavy loss of life, but find that our casualties were comparatively slight. They do not exceed 800 killed and wounded. The casualty reports will be rendered as speedily as possible, in order to reassure families and friends.

Nearly the whole strength of both combatants met in the battle, and the area of the fighting was very wide.

The first day proved foggy, and even without smoke and fumes, resulting from the battle, it was impossible to see five miles. Consequently during the day it was impossible to locate or observe all the ships under my command. Moreover, the fighting having lasted two days and the ships of my command being scattered for the purpose of chasing and attacking the enemy, some having received special orders after the battle, it is impossible to collect and render many detailed reports covering the whole battle at the same time.

#### A FLEET CORRESPONDENT'S STORY.

London, June 1.—The Tokyo correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph" sends a description of the naval battle, from a correspondent with the Japanese fleet, who describes the scene as superbly terrible, the guns of nearly fifty warships firing.

Togo's vessels, this correspondent says, maneuvered with perfect precision. For a time both belligerents gave shot for shot, but with a hostile squadron on each side and another ahead of him, Rojstevsky was practically defeated within a few hours, and was caught in the trap which had been waiting for him since he left Madagascar. He displayed hesitation in his tactics, and this resulted in the utter confusion of the Russian fleet.

An infernal concentration of fire reached its zenith at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. As the Russians advanced in the direction of Vladivostok a Japanese squadron was lying between them and their destination, and the doomed Russians were battered on all sides. Between 3 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon a cruiser of the Admiral Nakhimoff class and the repair ship Kamchatka foundered, after their upper works had been shattered. The Russians broke in under disorder, lost their formation and went zigzag. The Japanese closed in and pressed them toward the Nagato coast.

The fight, the correspondent says, lasted until 7 o'clock in the evening. The correspondent continues:

Togo risked nothing and lost nothing. Darkness brought a glorious night, with smoke and transparent seas. The Russians were edging northward, with the powerful Japanese fleet in a horizontal line across their bows forming an effective barrier. Then, under searchlights and the cover of the big guns of the warships, the Japanese torpedo flotilla began like locusts to sting and sink the enemy, the Russians continuing to return the gun fire. At 2 o'clock in the morning the fighting was fierce and intense, and no rest was allowed the Russians.

With dawn of Sunday the Japanese fleet came into still closer range. All day long the battle continued, and by evening was raging in the Channel without any attempt at reconnoissance, convincing the Japanese that they were afflicted with excessive confidence. The facts have proved that the Russians were completely ignorant of the exact whereabouts of the Japanese fleet, which lay concealed in places kept strictly secret. There was no fog, but the movements of the fleets were hampered by great waves.

RUSSIANS TRIED TO BREAK THROUGH.

Almost every Japanese shell told, and told well. The Russians made repeated but unavailing efforts to break the ring of steel, and at night they concentrated their fearful fire on Japanese torpedo flotillas. Togo estimates that he thus compelled them to use an enormous quantity of ammunition.

The Russian severe cannonade occurred between 4 and 5 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, when four of the Russian warships were sent to the bottom, and the enemy, thrown into confusion, began to withdraw. Togo's fleet having closed the gap to the southward. It was a short race. Togo's superior speed soon enabled him to place a crescent formed barrier in front of Rojstevsky, whose ships then became miserable and hopeless. The Russian ships scattered. They were beyond control, and fled or foundered in the heavy sea, offering a feeble resistance. The Japanese navy, without loss, gained one of the greatest victories ever won. It was not altogether strategy nor altogether gallantry, but the battle was won by a splendid combination of both.

Washington, June 1.—The Japanese Legation to-day made public the following dispatch from Tokyo, dated June 1, giving further details of the naval battle off Tsu Island:

Eighty reports from Togo, received May 31: "Commander Kusaga returned this afternoon with survivors Dmitri Donskoi. Reports Donskoi morning May 29 opening Kingston valve. Sank, and those on board, including survivors from Kamchatka and destroyer Bouvier landed Ulou Island. It appears Bulny took aboard Rojstevsky and staff before sinking of flagship after noon May 27, and also 200 from Oslabya, but, finding navigation difficult, transferred Rojstevsky and staff to Bledovy, and while running northward met, morning May 28 Donskoi, to which all aboard were transferred, and Bulny sank herself. Oslabya, according to other survivors, had coming tower struck at first straight shot of battle May 27 and Admiral Voelkersam killed, and, after succession of shots, sank about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Survivors Donskoi say they saw two destroyers sink in thick of battle noon May 27. This, if true, makes five Russian destroyers sunk."

#### THE IZUMRUD HITS REEF.

Blown Up by Her Crew After Escaping from Japanese Fleet.

St. Petersburg, June 1.—Official reports bearing on the naval battle are beginning to be received by the Emperor and Grand Duke Alexis, the high admiral, the most important of these reports, revealing the fate of the cruiser Izumrud, being a telegram from her captain, Baron Ferzen, dated June 1, saying that he had blown up the cruiser at the entrance to Vladivostok Bay, and briefly describing the battle.

The baron says that before dark on May 27 the Oslabya, Alexander III and the Borodino had been sunk, and that the Kiaz Souvaroff, the Kamchatka and the Ural had been seriously damaged, and were lost to sight. The command then devolved on Rear Admiral Negoboff.

In the evening the Nikolai I, the Orel, the Admiral Apraxine, the Sissoi Veliky, the Navarin, the Admiral Nakhimoff and the Izumrud sailed northeastward, the latter being charged to transmit orders to the battleships. Two other cruisers were cut off from the fleet, and were not again seen.

The battleships, steaming at fourteen knots, were repeatedly attacked by the Japanese torpedo boats, especially at the extremities of the line.

At dawn it was ascertained that the battleship division consisted of the Nikolai I, the Orel, the Admiral Apraxine and the Admiral Senavin. At sunrise, May 28, smoke from the Japanese ships reappeared on the horizon, whereupon the admiral gave orders for increased speed. The

Admiral Senavin and the Admiral Apraxine dropped behind.

Toward 10 o'clock the Japanese fleet appeared to port and then to starboard, while the cruiser division maneuvered behind the Russians to starboard. Baron Ferzen's account continues:

I was cut off from the squadron, and, finding it impossible to rejoin it, resolved to make for Vladivostok. I put on full speed and the enemy's cruisers came on in pursuit. Owing to the insufficiency of my coal supply and the uncertainty of meeting the enemy's cruisers I subsequently altered my course for Vladivostok. At 1:30 o'clock next morning, in pitch darkness, the Izumrud ran full on a rock at the entrance to the bay, having only ten tons of coal and seeing that it would be impossible to again float my vessel, I ordered the crew ashore and blew up the Izumrud to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy. Ten of my sailors were wounded in the battle, but the officers and the rest of the crew are all safe.

The Emperor is understood to have received a dispatch from Rear Admiral Negoboff containing an outline of the battle, sent by courtesy of the Japanese government, but the contents are withheld.

From some of the Tokyo accounts of the battle, naval men here, while not attempting to conceal their admiration for Admiral Togo's superb tactics, say the Russian fleet made a fairly good showing until the flagship Kiaz Souvaroff was sunk and Admiral Rojstevsky was no longer able to command. It was then that the Russian lines were thrown into confusion, but nevertheless the fight continued for forty-eight hours.

June 2.—According to the dispatch from Baron Ferzen, the commander of the cruiser Izumrud, the battleships remaining in the fight were still in squadron formation when he was cut off, and this increases the deep resentment felt here at the surrender of the ships, the "Novoe Vremya" even declaring that the officers ought to be court-martialed and shot for hauling down their flags and turning over their ships to the Japanese. The paper cites articles of the naval regulations forbidding a commander to surrender except as a last emergency after taking measures to destroy his ship. It points out that it required only the opening of the sea cocks to send the ships to the bottom by which the crews would be given a good chance of life and cites the example of the cruiser Rurik of the Vladivostok squadron, which, after the fight with Admiral Kamimura in August went down, with colors flying.

The report from Lieutenant Dournovo, of the torpedo boat destroyer Bravi, telling how that boat was disabled on the first day of the fight, and limped to Vladivostok through the mist of a hostile flotilla of destroyers, being obliged even to burn her woodwork, to reach the harbor, awakens a gleam of satisfaction; and, though the Izumrud failed to reach Vladivostok, her destruction at the hands of her own crew is regarded with almost equal pleasure.

The saddest note for St. Petersburg was struck by the destruction of the battleship Alexander III, which was manned by sailors of the Guard and officers exclusively by men prominent in society and at court. Her crew served during the winter as a regiment of the Guard, of which the Emperor's Empress was honorary commander.

According to the latest Japanese reports about the Izumrud she was one of five Russian vessels surrounded by the Japanese May 28 near Liancourt Rocks, northeast of Oki Island, and fled while the other four vessels (the battleships Nikolai I and Orel and the coast defense ships Admiral Senavin and Admiral Apraxine) surrendered.

#### VOELKERSAM KILLED.

#### Russian Admiral Met Death in Conning Tower of His Flagship.

Tokio, June 1.—Rear Admiral Voelkersam, who was commander of the battleship squadron of the Russian fleet, was, it was announced to-day, killed the first day of the battle, May 27, in the conning tower of his flagship, the battleship Oslabya, one of the vessels sunk by the Japanese.

Rear Admiral Voelkersam was appointed commander of the battleship squadron of the Russian fleet in July last, and left Cronstadt on August 25 with the other vessels commanded by Admiral Rojstevsky. It was Voelkersam's squadron, according to report, which fired on the British travelers in the North Sea, mistaking them for Japanese torpedo boats. It was reported last month that Voelkersam was seriously ill, and it was intimated unofficially that he would have relieved Rojstevsky of the command of the fleet had it not been for his own sickness.

#### HOSPITAL SHIPS TAKEN.

#### Are Supposed to Have Violated the Hague Convention.

Tokio, May 31.—Admiral Togo reports that all the captured ships sent to Sasebo have arrived and that their crews have been landed.

The report that Vice-Admiral Enquist was captured proves to have been a mistake, caused by the misinterpretation of wireless telegrams. Admiral Togo also reports that two Russian hospital ships, the Orel and the Kostroma, which accompanied Admiral Rojstevsky's fleet into the Strait of Korea on May 27, were suspected of a violation of the Hague Convention, and owing to the great necessity for strategic protection he detained them temporarily and conveyed them to Sasebo on May 28.

#### RUSSIAN WARSHIPS AT HAMADA.

Tokio Correspondent Says They "Will Probably Be Captured."

London, June 1.—"The Daily Telegraph's" Tokyo correspondent says that three Russian warships, the Izumrud, the Kiaz Souvaroff and the Aurora, respectively, have arrived at Hamada, on the west coast of Honshu, Japan, and will probably be captured.

#### RUSSIAN VESSELS DRIFT ASHORE.

Nagasaki, June 1.—Three damaged Russian vessels have drifted ashore off the coast of the Province of Nagato.

#### JAPAN'S BIG CONTRACTS.

Orders Placed in This Country Estimated at \$15,000,000.

That the Japanese intend to carry on military operations in Manchuria on an extensive scale is illustrated by their placing large contracts for various railroad equipment in this market. Hundreds of cars, locomotives, etc., are to be rushed to the Far East with all possible dispatch.

All the shipments will go overland to the Pacific Coast. Forty thousand tons of freight have already been booked with the transcontinental railroads, which will mean an expenditure of upward of \$700,000 for this item alone.

The Pressed Steel Car Company has obtained a contract from the Japanese government for 1,800 steel cars, varying in capacity from seven to twenty tons. Another contract, which was placed last week, calls for 1,000 gondola type, steel underframe cars, and is to be filled by the American Car and Foundry Company.

A further contract has also been awarded by the Japanese authorities to the Baldwin Locomotive Works, which concern recently was allotted one for 20 locomotives through the same source. One hundred locomotives have just been ordered.

It is estimated that within the last few months the contracts placed here by the Japanese for structural material, electrical equipment and machinery for arsenals and shipyards and for railroad material for Japanese, Korean and Manchurian railroads exceed \$15,000,000.

We forgot everything, but fortunately were picked up by Japanese fishermen. We had intended to die, and floated about in the water, as it seemed, for hours, watching the scene created by the explosion of Japanese shells.

#### FEARFUL LOSS OF LIFE.

#### Thousands of Russian Sailors Perished in Battle.

Nagasaki, June 1.—Fully thirty-eight hundred naval prisoners have been landed.

Tokio, June 1.—Rough estimates made of the Russian losses in the battle fought in the Sea of Japan, exclusive of nearly four thousand prisoners, vary from seven to nine thousand. It is feared that the majority perished. Calculating the complements of the sunken and captured ships at upward of ten thousand, seven thousand men remain unaccounted for. It is possible that the ships which escaped rescued some of the members of the crews of the less fortunate ships. Many bodies have been washed ashore on the islands and on the shores of the neighboring coasts near the scene of the battle.

#### SUNK BY TORPEDO BOATS.

#### Rumor That the Russia and the Gromoboi Have Been Destroyed.

Nagasaki, June 1.—It is rumored that the Russian cruisers Russia and Gromoboi were sunk by torpedo boats.

#### OVERPOWER CAPTORS.

Nagasaki, June 1.—Russian torpedo boats from Vladivostok captured the Japanese steamer Daisheon (700 tons) off Hokkaido, and placed a prize crew of thirteen men on board with orders to take the vessel to port. By mistake the Russian commander of the Daisheon headed for Gensan (Corea) and met a Japanese transport. The latter seeing the Russian flag flying from the Daisheon captives aboard the steamer, on seeing their compatriots, attacked the prize crew, recaptured the vessel and eventually took her to Gensan. The Russian prize crew have been taken captives to Sasebo.

#### LITTLE HOPE FOR ROJSTEVSKY.

Russian Commander at Death's Door in Hospital at Sasebo.

Nagasaki, May 31.—A report reaches here to the effect that little hope is entertained for the recovery of Admiral Rojstevsky, who is now in a hospital at Sasebo.

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#### NAVY DEPARTMENT REPORTS DISASTERS HERETOFORE WITHHELD.

Tokio, June 1.—The necessity for secrecy no longer existing, the Navy Department confirms the reports of the loss of the Japanese battleship Yashima, off Port Arthur, in May, 1904, and announces other naval losses heretofore withheld. The list is as follows:

Battleship Yashima, sunk by a mine May 15, 1904, while engaged in blockading Port Arthur. The torpedo boat destroyer Akatsuki, sunk by a mine May 17, 1904, while taking part in the blockade of Port Arthur. The gunboat Oshima, sunk in collision May 17, 1904, while co-operating with the army off the Liaotung Peninsula.

The torpedo boat destroyer Hayatori, sunk by a mine September 3, 1904, while taking part in the blockade of Port Arthur. The gunboat Atago, struck a rock and sank November 8, 1904, while taking part in the blockade of Port Arthur. The protected cruiser Takasago, sunk by a mine December 12, 1904, while taking part in the blockade of Port Arthur.

The Japanese battleship Yashima was reported to have been sunk early in June, 1904, but, although the reports were reiterated and repeatedly denied, it was not until November 3 of that year that The Associated Press was able to positively announce that its dispatches from Chefoo, Port Arthur and Tokio in June to the effect that the Yashima had been sunk had been officially confirmed. It was ascertained that the Japanese government had informed foreign governments of the loss of the ship while attempting to enter Port Dalny, after having struck a mine while taking part in the blockade of Port Arthur. The loss of the battleship was concealed by the Japanese, as to have admitted it would have disclosed that Japan had only four modern battleships remaining. The Yashima was one of the finest battleships of the Japanese navy. She was about the size of the American battleship Maine, had a speed of nineteen knots and carried a heavy battery of four 12-inch guns and ten 6-inch guns, in addition to twenty-four other guns of small calibre.

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